

The Fourth

THOSE VARIOUS BOOMS.

Everybody Claiming According to His Hopes, with Little Actual Basis—Taft and the Negroes—Knox Shows Strength in the East. Other Candidates—Democrats Gloomy Over Bryan's Ascendancy.

Has the Taft Presidential boom been halted? Its detractors are saying so, but the Secretary and his friends laugh at the assertion. They deny that he has "cold feet" and insist that he is in the game to stay.

The greatest setback the Taft boom has yet had came from Kentucky on June 19, when the Republican State Convention refused to endorse him for the nomination. Possibly it is not so much the failure of the convention to endorse him as the reason for the refusal, which causes Secretary Taft chagrin. This reason was nothing more nor less than the statement, widely circulated among the Blue Grass politicians, that if the convention endorsed the Secretary of War, it would displease the negro voters, and by so much handicap the party in its efforts to elect a Governor and a Legislature next November.

This is the Brownsville issue over again. It has been pointed out again and again that the negro voters are sullen in many States. The politicians keep insisting that when election day comes around the negroes can be hired to go to the polls, as the bulk of them have been many a time and oft, but some of the wiser politicians have been noting in recent years that the negroes are becoming exceedingly defiant. They think the Republican Party is not sufficiently grateful for the support given these negro votes; in fact, having elected many a Republican President. They have been especially sullen in Massachusetts, where last year they nearly defeated Gov. Guild.

The Negroes Deeply Offended.

Now Secretary Taft has grievously offended the negroes by siding with the President on the Brownsville issue. It seems to make little difference whether the President was justified or not in discharging the negro battalion. The colored people think it was a slight to the race, and many little straws show that they are going to strike at any man running for office who stood with the President. Senator Foraker, now engaged in the fight of his life for re-election, has been especially sullen. He has been especially sullen in Massachusetts, where last year they nearly defeated Gov. Guild.

All the negro opposition to Taft may fade away in the course of a few months, but just now it is being featured in the Presidential politics of Midsummer. Probably the Secretary's rivals are doing their utmost to magnify it, but the fact remains that without the negro vote the Republicans might have a hard time in the next campaign. The negroes in Ohio could turn the State over to the Democrats, or nearly so, by staying away from the polls, while if they should vote for the Republican candidate as many of them in Kansas did last year because of their dislike for Gov. Hoch, there would be little question about the Ohio Democratic election. Governor, a campaign of the Legislature, which will have the designation of a United States Senator, and also 23 Presidential electors.

And if Ohio were not one only State where the negroes have the balance of power in politics it would not be so bad, but there are several other Northern States in like predicament. What ever the ultimate attitude of the negro, there is so much doubt about it that Senator Foraker has the Taft people badly scared. They are in reality afraid of the negro issue less if they see that their candidate, if it goes without saying that if it can be shown that the negroes will not support him the National Convention would never nominate him.

Taft Not Afraid.

Strangely enough, Secretary Taft has had little fear of the negro vote, but has been much afraid of the labor vote, lest it oppose him because of his injunction decisions while on the United States Circuit Bench. His fear of the labor vote was the Secretary's main reason for making among the unions in different sections to ascertain sentiment toward him. They were greatly surprised to learn that the labor people seemed to hold little or no resentment against the Secretary and would apparently give him cordial support.

Secretary Taft and Senator Knox, who loom high these days as Presidential aspirants, came together Monday at Taft University and University of Kansas. Senator Knox was at New Haven as the recipient of an honorary degree, and Secretary Taft was present as a member of the Yale corporation. There was no particular significance in their meeting, for the two men have often met in Washington during the last few months and are on the best of terms personally, notwithstanding their rival aspirations.

The Secretary returned from his Western and Northwestern trip in high feather. Although he came back in the midst of the hottest day of the Washington Summer, he plunged into his duties without a moment's delay. He did not go to the President's office, but tackled his tasks on the cool porch of his residence, where he could work with more comfort.

His critics say that the Secretary made many mistakes on his Western trip, that he is likely to deter his boom. Probably those statements are somewhat exaggerated for the Secretary informed those who have his confidence that he was agreeably surprised at the enthusiasm with which the Western people received him. The Republicans were constantly watching in the interest of other candidates for something the Secretary might do to their detriment, but the Secretary is confident that he will have the delegates from several States in the Northwest, and along down the Mississippi.

He has been on the ground this week, making his tour in New York, looking right, coming to New Haven today, to Oyster Bay for conference.

with the President Tuesday, back to New Haven Wednesday, and late this week will return to Washington to pack up and start for his vacation at Murray Bay, Canada. He does not expect to be back in the United States again till along in August.

Candidate's Claims.

The claim departments of the leading Presidential booms have been figuring a little recently. Following the return to this city within the past week of both Secretary Taft and Senator Knox, their respective advocates have been starting a column of States. It stands about this way:

Delegates already assured for Secretary Taft:	
Ohio	46
Minnesota	22
North Dakota	8
South Dakota	8
Kansas	20
Total	104
Delegates already assured for Senator Knox:	
Pennsylvania	65
New Jersey	24
West Virginia	14
Vermont	8
Delaware	8
Total	122

Of course there is considerable guess work about the columns that both candidates are putting out. Senator Knox, for instance, has been endorsed by the Pennsylvania State Convention, and in a well-attended State like Pennsylvania that probably means the entire delegation will be for him. But some of the district delegates, of whom there will be 64, although it is well-nigh a certainty that a few of the 42 district delegates will not support him.

Senator Knox's good friend, Assistant to the Attorney General Milton D. Purdy, recently went to his home in Minnesota to look around and ascertain conditions. Because of Mr. Knox's part, when Attorney General, in conducting the Northern Securities suit, it was understood that he would have brought back a discouraging report. It was that sentiment seemed to be for Taft, because the President wanted to put down the railroad. Afterward Mr. Taft returned from Minnesota, because the North Star politicians had spoken cheering words to him about the progressive attitude of the Minnesota delegates.

Other Candidates.

The Knox claimers see no votes in sight thus far, except in the East; the Taft claimers, except in the West. Although Gov. Hughes is mentioned with more frequency as a possibility, even as a probability, New York is sometimes put down in the Knox column. Its 78 delegates look well to the Knox statisticians. On the other hand, the Taft statisticians are fond of putting down in his column the States that are accredited to three other candidates, as follows:

Indiana—Fairbanks	30
Illinois—Cannon	30
Wisconsin—La Follette	25
Total	85

If these transfers of votes should eventually prove to be warranted the relative strength of Taft and Knox in the convention of 1,000 delegates, where approximately 500 votes will be required to nominate, would stand:

For Taft	214
For Knox	200

With the many uncertainties of Presidential politics, these figures, which are by no means altogether substantial, demonstrate how far all the Republican aspirants are from the coveted goal. As a matter of fact, the renewed outbreak of talk about nominating President Roosevelt for another term is taken here as further evidence that the country at large is not accepting with any particular enthusiasm the names of any of the candidates. The boom of one of them has thus far commanded anything but sectional support. It is even a question whether the boom has developed much beyond the favorite son stage.

Speaker Cannon.

Speaker Cannon is supposed to have some support in several States where members of the National House are his friends. He has been conferring with these friends of late in Chicago, his tactics resembling in some respects the tactics of the late Speaker Reed in the prospect of his campaign of 1890. Vice President Fairbanks is said to have strength in the South, but the nearest approach to any demonstration of support for him is in Kentucky. The Kentucky State Convention, where Ex-Commissioner of Internal Revenue John W. Yeakes prevented a Taft endorsement.

Democrats Fear Bryan.

While numerous Democrats of more or less influence who come to Washington are exceedingly gloomy over the prospect of Bryan's nomination, very many Republicans from all quarters think he is greatly to be feared. They talk earnestly about the danger of a Democratic Administration, and an argument for nominating Roosevelt. An Iowa Republican, Chairman of his County Committee and not an admirer of the President, said here a couple of days ago that no Republican, except Roosevelt, could carry that rock-ribbed Republican stronghold against Bryan. Indiana Republicans, too, in the East. A New Hampshire Republican who was in Washington last week asserted that the Granite State would vote for Bryan in preference to any Republican who could be suspected of reactionary tendencies.

In reality little of importance in deciding who the Republican nominee will be is expected before next autumn, probably in November and December, when the clans begin to gather for the session of Congress. The Senators and members will come here, knowing how about the sentiment of the country. There will be many conferences and much maneuvering then, which may be of material advantage in the campaign of the candidates.



Vice Presidential Occupation.

THE ISTHMIAN CANAL.
Conditions Generally More Satisfactory and Encouraging Than at Any Previous Time—It Looks Like Nine Years of Strait Digging—Cost Likely to Far Exceed the Estimate.

"The goose honks high" over the Isthmian Canal these days. It is hotter and wetter there than in Washington, but good reports keep coming to the top of the Mills building, where the local offices of the Commission are installed, and therefore everybody feels good. The Canal Commissioners are all on the Isthmus, and have been there for a long time, trying to give the Government a quid pro quo for the \$14,000,000 a year that most of them receive.

Joe Blackburn as Governor.

It is all very gratifying to the Canal authorities here, chief of whom is the Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Joseph E. Blackburn, who is President Roosevelt's personal friend, to talk about the excellent results attained by putting Army engineers, rather than civil engineers, in charge, but there is one special cause for gratification. That is the administration of ex-Senator Joseph W. Yeakes, who has been Governor of the Blue Grass State, to have to endure this. You know it means something to have been a Republican in Kentucky. But to come to this, Joe Blackburn for Governor of the Canal Zone. And at \$14,000 a year. Why, in private life he would not be worth \$14,000 a year. He has been Governor of the Blue Grass State, to have to endure this. You know it means something to have been a Republican in Kentucky. But to come to this, Joe Blackburn for Governor of the Canal Zone. And at \$14,000 a year. Why, in private life he would not be worth \$14,000 a year.

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The death of the Roosevelt third term sentiment has never been sounded, but some of his closest friends fear candidates are taking shape that will result in a serious effort to force the nomination upon him. This is chiefly because of the death of good Presidential timber in the Republican Party. So other men are in sight for whom there is anything like a national demand.

Spaniards, Italians and Greeks.

The Government is now receiving recruits of from 200 to 1,000 a month from Europe for its army of spade diggers. They are coming by every ship from Galicia in Northern Spain, from Italy and from Greece. For political reasons the Government sincerely hopes that these recruits from Europe will continue, as the European laborers alone are now saving the Administration from the necessity of employing Chinese. The Chinese are lazy and inefficient, and have been used for the most part only to do the menial work of the canal.

be unwise. For the opposition forces, especially the Hearst organs, have roused upon it a good issue and it has been demonstrated that the laboring masses were responsive to the agitation. Therefore the Canal Commission is encouraging all the European immigrants to come to the Isthmus, but it is believed that the demand in South America for laborers will eventually be supplied and then most of them will starve on the Isthmus.

There is much grumbling in Europe about the migration of these pick and shovel handlers. It is giving the "Canal" authorities some uneasiness. But there have been no formal complaints yet. The Spaniards do not want their laborers to go away in such large numbers, and the Italian officials are taking a hard line. Nothing has yet been heard from Greece. It is the same attitude that Spain and Italy took with reference to the migration some months ago of several thousands of laborers and their families to Hawaii.

Since the threatened strike of the steam shovel men, labor conditions on the Isthmus have been nearly normal. Out of 60 of these steam shovel men about a dozen quit as soon as Secretary Taft refused to raise their pay from \$3.00 to \$3.50 a month. Their places were filled without any trouble. A steam shovel engineer's duties are very much like those of a locomotive engineer, except that they are not quite so hazardous. As a matter of fact, most of the steam shovel engineers are former locomotive engineers whose eyesight or hearing has failed slightly, or who have some other physical defects that disqualify for holding the throttle in a fast freight train.

Great Gatun Lake. When late Senator John Tyler Morgan, of Alabama, died here a few days ago at his residence on Joan Marsh Place, there were in one of his rooms several boxes of rock-like substance. These were borings from the Gatun dam. During the last few years investigations of the site for that big dam, which will be one of the great engineering feats of the canal, many tests were made and the borings sent to Washington. These borings interested Senator Morgan. He took them to his committee room and when he became too ill to go to the Capitol, had the boxes removed to his house. He was preparing to have the indurated clay, or rock, tested by some Government official, that he might know on his own inquiry something definite about the character of the tests were made.

But the Canal Commission is very well satisfied with the progress toward the construction of the Gatun dam. The Commissioners, since Secretary Taft visited the Isthmus, with eminent consulting engineers, who decided that the foundation was satisfactory, have been working out many of the details. A number of civil engineers have been engaged on surveys and plans. One thing they have developed is that the area of the great Gatun Lake will be 225 miles square, as against 110 miles square estimated by the minority of the Board of Consulting Engineers, who drew a report in favor of a lock canal. This demonstrates how far the best of engineers may be in error in their computations. The new figures give the canal authorities much encouragement, because it increases the advantages of a lock canal in that there will be a large volume of water impounded from the Chagres River as to assure a minimum of fluctuation in the water of the canal on the high level. In spite of the tremendous evaporation in that latitude, the artificial lake, as now estimated, will afford sufficient water for 16 lockages a day, with a margin of 26, as had been theretofore calculated.

The rebuilding of the Panama Railroad, which has been one of the big tasks in connection with the Canal construction, is now nearly completed. The building of double tracks has been going on for about two years, as has been the building of new and stronger bridges. The road is all double tracked now, except approximately five miles.

Less Criticism Expected. The Commission expects far less criticism of the canal at the next session of Congress than there has been heretofore. The Chinese are being used for the most part only to do the menial work of the canal, and these outbursts of criticism greatly

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The Joyous Fourth of July.
Like all truly American things, the Fourth of July has merits that do not appear on the surface.
Probably there lives no man with soul so dead as not to look upon the day with a pleasant kindling of the spirit.

Being "Liberty Day," it is the sole one of the year when everyone can do exactly as he pleases. It comes as a needed break in the irksome toil of early Summer, but there is not the slightest constraint—legal, moral or social—upon anyone to do anything. It has absolutely nothing of the sacredness of the Sabbath, the solemnity of Memorial Day, the forceful patriotism of Flag Day, the perfunctory gratitude of Thanksgiving, the financial and family requirements of Christmas, or the social and business demands of New Year's.

It is a day when, like the Maine fisherman, all a man need do is to "set round an' think, or jest set 'round." He usually dreams of that most fascinating way of spending a Summer's day—out in the country, lying on the fresh, sweet grass, beneath a shady tree, watching the daisy clouds drift lazily across the glinting, turquoise sky, while the cheery bob-white calls lovingly to his brooding mate, and shiny-winged bees hum a drowsy pean on the laze joy of being alive.

It is a day when Nature mingles Spring's glad promise with Summer's earnest fruition, and bright hope seems well on the way to Realization.
It is also the one day upon which the small boy can make all the noise he wants to. He is even strongly encouraged in it by his generally reproving elders, and several million dollars are expended in the country every year in furnishing him the most ingenious and satisfactorily ear-splitting noisemakers.

It is the day when youngsters, who feel the Demosthenic fire burn uncontrollably within them find opportunity

after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, on July 8, 1776, "a warm, sunshiny morning," as one of those who were present described the day. John Nixon read the Declaration in the yard of the State House, and the great assembly of people "gave three repeated huzzas." The king's arms were torn down from their place, and then the Proclamation was read before each of the five battalions on the commons. In the evening, which was clear and starlight, bonfires were kindled, cannon were fired, bells were rung, "with other demonstrations of joy upon the unannounced celebration of the birth of the new nation."

One of the unpublished letters of John Adams gives the following description: "The thought of taking any notice of this day was not conceived until the second of the month and was not mentioned until the third. It was too late to have a sermon, as every one wished, so this must be deferred to another year. Congress determined to adjourn over that day and to dine together. The general officers and several gentlemen of the marine committee, the President and Council and Board of War of this State. In the morning the Delaware frigate, several large galleys and other Continental armed vessels, the Pennsylvania ship and row galleys and guard boats were all hauled off into the river and several of them were dressed in the colors of all nations displayed above the masts, yards and rigging. At 1 o'clock the ships were all manned; that is, the men were all ordered aloft and arranged upon the top yards and shrouds, making a striking appearance of men drawn up in order in the air. Then I went on board the Delaware, and the President and several gentlemen of the marine committee, soon after which we were saluted with a discharge of 13 guns, which was followed by 13 others from each of the armed vessels in the river. Then the galleys followed the fire and after them the gunboats. Then the President and the company returned in the largest of the shrouds, and then three cheers from every ship, galley and boat in the river. The wharves and shores were lined with a vast concourse of people, all shouting and huzzing, and the air was filled with the music of the band of Hessians captured at Trenton and by continual volleys between every toast from a company of soldiers."

The letter then goes on to describe the celebration which was held in New York. The Declaration was read in the presence of the Army, and the assembled people indulged in displays very like those of the preceding day in Philadelphia, although the New York celebration went a step farther, for in their enthusiasm the people tore down, beheaded and melted the statue of George III in Bowling Green, "the troops having had an inclination so to do."

The news was hurried forward to Boston, and the messengers made such incredibly fast time that they arrived on the 18th of July. The people were dressed in their "holiday suits" and



THE FOURTH OF YESTERDAYS.

to try their prentice hands in wakening responsive thrills in the popular heart. The Fourth of July address has many advantages for the orator. He does not have to denounce anybody, but the very impersonal "foes to liberty." He does not have to urge reforms distasteful to many, nor defend his party against the ghoul-like attacks of its unprincipled opponents. All he has to do is to drink in the glad sunbeams of the day, and let the words of patriotism gold set in pictures before him.

Early Celebrations.
The first Fourth of July celebration took place in Philadelphia four days

with the soldiers thronged the streets. Exactly at 1 o'clock Thomas Crafts arose in the town house and read aloud the Declaration, and the men stood up and repeated the words of their oath, and swore to uphold the rights of their country. The town clerk read the Declaration from a balcony to the crowd, "at the close of which a shout, began in the hall, passed to the streets, which rang with loud huzzas, the slow and measured boom of cannon on the water, and the crack of muskets in the air. The crowd in the hall, which all the other officers were in, while great quantities of liquor were distributed among the people, and

the processions and salutes of the soldiers, and expresses the surprise of the writer in the evening to behold almost every house lighted by candles in the windows, "though a few early houses were dark. I had forgot," he continues, "the ringing of bells all day long, and the bonfires in the streets, and the fireworks played off. Had Gen. Howe been here in disguise, or his master, this show would have given them the headache."

When Peace Was Restored.
The universities had been celebrating in the Army by the discharge of

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